

**WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.**

## ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

*Purpose of checklist:*

*The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.*

*Instructions for applicants:*

*This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.*

*You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.*

*Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.*

*The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.*

*Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:*

*Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).*

*For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.*

*A. BACKGROUND**1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:*

MIT North Fk Green River Road Re-construction Phase II

*2. Name of applicant:* Muckleshoot Indian Tribe*3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:*

Mike Middleton, Wildlife Biologist 253-876-3264

39015 172<sup>nd</sup> AVE SE

Auburn, WA. 98092

*4. Date checklist prepared:* April 12, 2009*5. Agency requesting checklist:* WA Dept of Natural Resources*6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):* May-August, 2010*7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.*

Future activities include commercial thinning and logging activities for ungulate habitat.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

A GeoTech Report was completed by Bennett Consulting, PLLC.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

None

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

A Forest Practice Application, Marbled Murrelet Form, and Small Forest Landowner RMAP Form are being submitted to the WA DNR.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

*It is construction.*

We will be re-constructing approximately 3 miles of forest roads in the North Fk drainage of the Green River Watershed. The roads have not been maintained for the last 15 or so years. There are many repair sites that are identified in the accompanying spreadsheet and map. We want to fix the road system in order to gain access to the property so we can improve habitat for ungulates and gather firewood for tribal members.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

Township 20, Range 09E, Sections 7, 17, and 18 in the North Fk drainage of the Green River Watershed  
(See attached map).

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR  
AGENCY USE ONLY

## B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

### 1. Earth

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous,  
other . . . . .

Mountainous Road System

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? 70%

- c. *What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.*

Gravelly sandy loam and bedrock

- d. *Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.*

The system is an old railroad grade. The fill material used back then was insufficient for today's standards and has failed in a couple of places. One 200ft section of road has failed due to poor fill material. See GeoTech Report.

- e. *Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.*

Where the road has failed we will need to fill. The GeoTech report has identified a rock source in the project area, and there is large fill material on the adjacent ORM property. Grading will occur across the project area.

- f. *Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.*

Yes. Using heavy equipment in mountainous settings such as this may cause some temporary soil erosion. The old road prism in the project area has failed, requiring us to cut into the bank to construct a new road prism. In addition, we need to remove material from the new culvert locations so we may place them at the correct angles and locations. This project could have erosion occur as a result of our construction activities, however these effects will be short term and the end product will reduce erosion in the area.

- g. *About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?*

No new impervious surfaces will be created.

- h. *Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:*

Proposed measures include; improving ditch lines immediately, staying out of the wet drainage areas, and placing straw on newly exposed soil. By improving drainage via larger culverts, using standard full bench construction techniques, and conducting work during the summer months, we will reduce erosion. Excavation areas and all disturbed soil will be seeded when the fall rains return.

## 2. Air

- a. *What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.*

Temporary emissions will occur from excavating equipment and vehicles. Dust will be created by vehicles working in the area.

- b. *Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.*

No

2413911

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR  
AGENCY USE ONLY

c. *Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:*

No specific measures are needed. State and federal law governs vehicle emissions.

3. **Water**

a. *Surface:*

- 1) *Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.*

Yes. The road system runs across the headwaters of the North Fork Green River. The closest culvert replacement will be approximately 1,000 ft from the main stem of the North Fk.

- 2) *Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.*

Yes. Culverts will be upgraded to DNR standards. There are no fish bearing streams in the project area. See attached map and project repair site list.

- 3) *Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.*

Several culverts have been plugged for years. We intend to dredge the existing deposited material out of each culvert location to get the proper drainage.

- 4) *Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.*

The seasonal (Ns) streams will be dry. The perennial (Np) streams will be diverted while new culverts are installed.

- 5) *Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.*

No

- 6) *Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.*

We will not be directly discharging waste materials to surface waters.

b. *Ground:*

- 1) *Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.*

No

- 2) *Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.*

None

*c. Water runoff (including stormwater):*

- 1) *Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.*

Project area is the headwaters to the North Fk Green River. We intend to improve drainage structures throughout the Tribes' road system. Crossdrains will be installed to get runoff to forest floor.

- 2) *Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.*

Waste materials may temporarily enter surface waters while we replace culverts and install crossdrains.

*d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:*

Work will be done during dry season. Perennial streams will be diverted.

**4. Plants***a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:*

- ☒ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other  
☒ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other  
☒ shrubs  
☒ grass  
☐ pasture  
☐ crop or grain  
☐ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other  
☐ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other  
☐ other types of vegetation

*b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?*

The old road bed has alder, hemlock, and shrubs growing in it. This vegetation will be removed to re-install road.

*c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.*

None known

*d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:*

Road banks will be seeded with grass species.

**5. Animals***a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:*

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: Songbirds, hawks, forest grouse  
 mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: Deer, elk, bear, cougar  
 fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other: Non-fish bearing streams

*b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.*

Listed salmon species are in the North Fk Green River. The project area contains no fish-bearing streams.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Project is located in the Pacific Flyway.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

Provide ungulate forage by seeding road banks with grasses/forbs.

#### 6. Energy and natural resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

None

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

None

#### 7. Environmental health

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

As with all construction activity, there is potential for spills to occur during refueling of excavation equipment or due to equipment malfunction. This potential will be minimized due to the designation of staging areas located away from all surface water.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

Designation of refueling and staging areas, compliance with all local, state, and federal laws.

#### b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

None

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

No long term noise will be created by the project. Short term noise includes the operation of excavating equipment.

3) *Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:*

None

8. **Land and shoreline use**

a. *What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?*

The project area is located in an upland forest environment, with adjacent landowners using the land for commercial harvest of timber.

b. *Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.*

No

c. *Describe any structures on the site.*

There are no structures on site.

d. *Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?*

No

e. *What is the current zoning classification of the site?*

Forestland

f. *What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?*

Forestland

g. *If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?*

N/A

h. *Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.*

No

i. *Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?*

None

j. *Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?*

None

k. *Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:*

N/A

1. *Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:*

This road re-construction project and associated wildlife improvements is compatible with the current forestland zoning.

9. **Housing**

- a. *Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.*

None

- b. *Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.*

None

- c. *Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:*

N/A

10. **Aesthetics**

- a. *What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?*

No structures will be built.

- b. *What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?*

None

- c. *Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:*

None

11. **Light and glare**

- a. *What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?*

Road machinery may produce glare. Operations will occur during daylight hours.

- b. *Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?*

No

- c. *What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?*

None

- d. *Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:*

None



**12. Recreation**

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

The project area is in a watershed closed to public access.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

None

**13. Historic and cultural preservation**

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

No

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

None

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

N/A

**14. Transportation**

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

There are no public streets accessing the project area. All access is through the Cedar River Watershed and the Green River Watershed.

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

No

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

N/A

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

Existing mountainous roads will be upgraded to DNR standards.

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR  
AGENCY USE ONLY

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

No

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

Very few vehicle trips would be generated. The project is in a closed watershed.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

None

#### 15. Public services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

N/A

#### 16. Utilities

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

No utilities serve the site.

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

None

#### C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: M. J. M. L. A.

Date Submitted: April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010.....